

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 350**

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TO: The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Rodney Grizzle, K. Earle Powell and Beth Quick
DATE: February 25, 2009 SBD: 2009143

AUTHOR: Senator L. Martin PRIMARY CODE CITE: 15-32-100
SUBJECT: The South Carolina Civil Fairness in Civil Justice Act 2009

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 350 amends Chapter 32 of Title 15 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by enacting the South Carolina Fairness in Civil Justice Act. The Bill amends the requirements for the awards of non-economic and punitive damage awards in personal injury cases. The Bill also regulates the retention and pay of private counsel retained by the Attorney General and solicitors. In addition the Bill also limits class action lawsuits.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Judicial Department and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination indicate this Bill will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

The Attorney Generals' Office

The Office reports this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

Budget and Control Board

The Agency has been forwarded a copy of the Bill, but to date, has not submitted impact of the proposed Bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The Board of Economic Advisors is the appropriate entity to address any revenue impact associated with this Bill.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget